

TITLE 39: UTILITIES
PART III: RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICE
SUBPART 1: GENERAL RULES
CHAPTER 9: CUSTOMER DEPOSITS
RULE 9.
135 VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

1. TEMPORARY WAIVER OF DEPOSIT A customer or applicant that has been determined to be a victim of domestic violence by a domestic violence shelter, as defined in Miss. Code Ann. § 93-21-101 (2014), shall be exempt from public utilities' initial deposit requirements, as established in that utility's tariff for new accounts at existing service locations, for a period of sixty (60) days. This determination shall be evidenced by submission of a certification letter to the utility. The certification letter must be printed on the letterhead of the certifying agency or accompanied by a letter on agency letterhead identifying the certifying individual. The certification letter expires after ninety (90) days.
2. CONFIDENTIALITY OF CERTIFICATION LETTER The utility shall deem the certification letter and the contents thereof as confidential. Any employee, contractor, volunteer or agent of a public utility in possession of information which would tend to identify a victim of domestic violence, who discloses any information that is exempt from disclosure under the Mississippi Public Records Act of 1983, or makes any observation or comment about the identity or condition of any person admitted to a shelter or receiving services of a shelter, unless directed to do so by an order of a court of competent jurisdiction, shall be subject to all applicable penalties imposed by Mississippi law for violation of Commission rules, and in addition, shall be civilly liable to the person whose personal information was disclosed in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00), plus any compensatory damages that the individual may have suffered as the result of the disclosure and any penalties imposed.

Source: MISS. CODE ANN. § 77-3-45 (2006)

Certification Letter for Victim of
Domestic Violence for Waiver of Initial Utility Deposit

This letter serves to certify that _____ (Name of Applicant for Service) is a victim of domestic violence, and therefore has demonstrated satisfactory credit for the purposes of establishing service.

Requirement of initial deposit must be waived for the above named customer for a period of sixty (60) days.

The following Certifying Entity has determined that the above named Applicant is a victim of domestic violence.

Domestic Violence Shelter (Shelter name): _____

By my signature I certify that the above named Applicant has been determined to be a victim of domestic violence, and I am qualified to make that determination.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed name: _____

Job Title: _____ Phone Number: _____

Supervisor: _____ Phone Number: _____

Title of Supervisor: _____

This form expires ninety (90) days from the date of the signature of the certifying individual.

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CHAPTER 9: CUSTOMER DEPOSITS
RULE 9.
135 VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

1. TEMPORARY WAIVER OF DEPOSIT. A customer or applicant that has been determined to be a victim of domestic violence by a domestic violence ~~program shelter~~, as defined in Miss. Code Ann. § 93-21-101 (2014), ~~by law enforcement personnel, by the office of a District Attorney, or by the office of the Attorney General,~~ shall be exempt from public utilities' initial deposit requirements, as established in that utility's tariff for new accounts at existing service locations for a period of sixty (60) days. This determination shall be evidenced by a submission of a certification letter to the utility. The certification letter must be printed on a letterhead of the certifying agency or accompanied by a letter on agency letterhead identifying the certifying individual. ~~The utility shall deem the certification letter and the contents thereof as confidential.~~ The certification letter expires after ninety (90) days.
2. CONFIDENTIALITY OF CERTIFICATION LETTER. The utility shall deem the certification letter and the contents thereof as confidential. Any employee, contractor, volunteer or gent of a public utility in possession of information which would tend to identify a victim of domestic violence, who discloses any information that is exempt from disclosure under the Mississippi Public Records Act of 1983, or makes any observation or comment about the identity or condition of any person admitted to a shelter or receiving services of a shelter, unless directed to do so by an order of a court of competent jurisdiction, shall be subject to all applicable penalties imposed by Mississippi law for violation of Commission rules, and in addition, shall be civilly liable to the person whose personal information was disclosed in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00), plus any compensatory damages that the individual may have suffered as the result of the disclosure and any penalties imposed.

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Certification Letter for Victim of
Domestic Violence for Waiver of Initial Utility Deposit

This letter serves to certify that _____ (Name of Applicant for Service) is a victim of domestic violence, and therefore has demonstrated satisfactory credit for the purposes of establishing service.

Requirement of initial deposit must be waived for the above named customer for a period of sixty (60) days.

The following Certifying Entity has determined that the above named Applicant is a victim of domestic violence. (~~Only one certifying entity is required.~~)

Domestic Violence Shelter (Shelter name): _____

~~Law Enforcement Personnel (Specify division):~~ _____

~~Office of Attorney General (Specify division):~~ _____

~~Office of a Mississippi District Attorney (Specify division):~~ _____

By my signature I certify that the above named Applicant has been determined to be a victim of domestic violence, and I am qualified to make that determination.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed name: _____

Job Title: _____ Phone Number: _____

Supervisor: _____ Phone Number: _____

Title of Supervisor: _____

This form expires ninety (90) days from the date of the signature of the certifying individual.